

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1           1.       A method for inhibiting interleukin-17 (IL-17) production by T cells  
2       comprising treating said T cells with an antagonist of interleukin-23 (IL-23).
- 1           2.       The method of claim 1 wherein said T cells are activated T cells.
- 1           3.       The method of claim 1 wherein said T cells are memory cells.
- 1           4.       The method of claim 1 wherein said treatment is performed *in vivo*.
- 1           5.       The method of claim 1 wherein said treatment is performed in a mammalian  
2       subject.
- 1           6.       The method of claim 5 wherein said mammalian subject is human.
- 1           7.       The method of claim 6 wherein said antagonist is an anti-IL-23 or an anti-IL-  
2       23 receptor antibody.
- 1           8.       The method of claim 7 wherein said antibody is an antibody fragment.
- 1           9.       The method of claim 8 wherein said antibody fragment is selected from the  
2       group consisting of Fv, Fab, Fab', and F(ab')<sub>2</sub>.
- 1           10.      The method of claim 7 wherein said antibody is a full-length antibody.
- 1           11.      The method of claim 7 wherein said antibody is chimeric.
- 1           12.      The method of claim 7 wherein said antibody is humanized.
- 1           13.      The method of claim 7 wherein said antibody is human.

1           14.     A method for the treatment of an inflammatory disease characterized by  
2     elevated expression of interleukin 17 (IL-17) in a mammalian subject, comprising  
3     administering to said subject an effective amount of an antagonist of interleukin-23 (IL-23).

1           15.     The method of claim 14 wherein said mammalian subject is human.

1           16.     The method of claim 15 wherein said inflammatory disease is selected from  
2     chronic inflammation, autoimmune diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis (RA), rheumatoid  
3     spondylitis, gouty arthritis and other arthritic conditions, multiple sclerosis (MS), asthma,  
4     systemic lupus erythematosus, adult respiratory distress syndrome, Behcet's disease,  
5     psoriasis, chronic pulmonary inflammatory disease, graft versus host reaction, Crohn's  
6     Disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), Alzheimer's disease, and  
7     pyresis.

1           17.     The method of claim 16 wherein said inflammatory disease is a chronic  
2     inflammatory disease.

1           18.     The method of claim 17 wherein said chronic inflammatory disease is selected  
2     from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), graft versus host reaction, multiple  
3     sclerosis (MS), and psoriasis.

1           19.     The method of claim 15 wherein said antagonist is an anti-IL-23 or an anti-IL-  
2     23 receptor antibody.

1           20.     The method of claim 19 wherein said antibody is an antibody fragment.

1           21.     The method of claim 20 wherein said antibody fragment is selected from the  
2     group consisting of Fv, Fab, Fab', and F(ab')<sub>2</sub>.

1           22.     The method of claim 19 wherein said antibody is a full-length antibody.

- 1           23.     The method of claim 19 wherein said antibody is chimeric.
- 1           24.     The method of claim 19 wherein said antibody is humanized.
- 1           25.     The method of claim 19 wherein said antibody is human.
- 1           26.     The method of claim 15 wherein said antagonist is administered in  
2 combination with an additional therapeutic agent.
- 1           27.     The method of claim 26 wherein said additional therapeutic agent is an anti-  
2 inflammatory molecule.
- 1           28.     The method of claim 27 wherein said anti-inflammatory molecule is selected  
2 from the group consisting of corticosteroids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs  
3 (NSAIDs).
- 1           29.     A method for identifying an anti-inflammatory agent comprising the steps of:  
2           (a)     incubating a culture of T cells with IL-23, in the presence and absence of a  
3 candidate molecule;  
4           (b)     monitoring the level of IL-17 in said culture; and  
5           (c)     identifying said candidate molecule as an anti-inflammatory agent if the level  
6 of IL-17 is lower in the presence than in the absence of said candidate molecule.
- 1           30.     The method of claim 29 wherein said candidate molecule is a non-peptide  
2 small organic molecule.
- 1           31.     The method of claim 29 wherein said candidate molecule is a peptide.
- 1           32.     The method of claim 29 wherein said candidate molecule is a polypeptide.
- 1           33.     The method of claim 29 wherein said candidate molecule is an antibody.

- 1           34.     The method of claim 29 wherein said T cells are activated T cells.
- 1           35.     The method of claim 29 wherein said T cells are memory cells.
- 1           36.     The method of claim 29 wherein the level of IL-17 is monitored by ELISA.
- 1           37.     An anti-inflammatory agent identified by the method of claim 29.
- 1           38.     A method for inducing IL-17 production in a mammalian subject comprising  
2 administering to said subject an IL-23 agonist.
- 1           39.     The method of claim 38 wherein said mammalian subject is human.
- 1           40.     The method of claim 39 wherein the human subject has been exposed to  
2 bacterial infection.
- 1           41.     The method of claim 40 wherein the human subject has been exposed to  
2 infection by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.
- 1           42.     The method of claim 39 wherein said IL-23 agonist is an antibody.
- 1           43.     The method of claim 42 wherein said antibody is an anti-IL-23 or anti-IL-23  
2 receptor antibody.
- 1           44.     The method of claim 43 wherein said antibody is an antibody fragment.
- 1           45.     The method of claim 44 wherein said antibody fragment is selected from the  
2 group consisting of Fv, Fab, Fab' and F(ab')<sub>2</sub>.
- 1           46.     The method of claim 43 wherein said antibody is a full-length antibody.

- 1        47.    The method of claim 43 wherein said antibody is chimeric.
- 1        48.    The method of claim 43 wherein said antibody is humanized.
- 1        49.    The method of claim 43 wherein said antibody is human.